

1) Seagrape (*Coccoloba uvifera*) Leaves are large, round, leathery 6-8 in. across. New growth is glossy. Trunk is multi-stemmed with peeling bark in varying shades of brown. Blooms are tiny white flowers on spikes up to 10 in. in length and fruit is edible, purple, 1/4 in. round in grape-like clusters.



2) White Indigoberry (*Randia aculeata*) An evergreen shrub that reaches a maximum of 10ft. Leaves are opposite, glossy, and entire. Braches generally form 60° angles from the leader giving this species a unique look. Berry is green, ripening to white. A blue pulp used by Native Americans for dyeing is contained within the fruit.



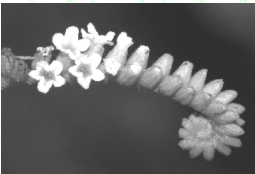
3) Wild Lime (*Zanthoxylum fagara*) Leaf stems are winged, with 7 to 9 leaflets. Bark is dark with sharp spines. Flowers are tiny and fragrant. Fruits are small, brown, and related to citrus. In the West Indies, the leaves, twigs and bark are used in medicine, especially to relieve toothache.



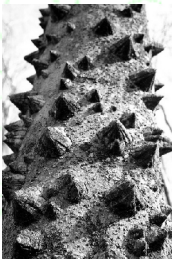
4) Gumbo Limbo (*Bursera simaruba*) Trunk, massive with smooth peeling bark which also lends itself to be known as tourist tree because of its thin, flaking orange bronze colored bark. Blooms are inconspicuous greenish spikes and blooms in the spring with dark red angled ½ in fruits with white seeds. Tree is drought & salt tolerant and has no preference for soil conditions. Fruit attracts birds, especially flycatchers.



5) Scorpion's Tail (*Heliotropium angiospermum*) Produces flowers, resembling a scorpion's tail in shape, all year except in extreme dry or cold periods. This annual or short-lived perennial grows 1-3 feet tall, produces self-sown seedlings close to the mother plant. Butterfly-attractant plant.



6) Hercules' Club (*Zanthoxylum clava-herculis*) Related to the wild lime. Deciduous, coarse textured and salt-tolerant, but very thorny. Small attractive shade tree In natural habitat., Its valuable wood is sought for use in fine cabinetry, inlay work and paneling.



7) Nickerbean (*Caesalpinia bonduc*) This fast growing shrub has long thorn covered vine-like branches that tend to climb over other plants adjacent to it. The seed pod, about 4" long and 2" wide is reddish-brown; when ripe it pops open revealing one or two shiny seeds inside. This plant is very difficult to transverse through.



8) Beach Bean (*Canavalia rosea*) A sprawling vine common to beach dunes and coastal strands, can reach lengths of 20 feet or more. The pink, pea-like flowers bloom throughout the summer and occasionally otherwise. Leaves are trifoliate, with each leaflet about 2" long; often seen curled up during the hottest parts of the day. Forms dense mats of foliage reaching out toward the ocean.



9) Beach Sunflower (*Helianthus debilis*) A sprawling groundcover that flowers all year in this region. Yellow flower contains small sunflower kernels favored by birds and small mammals. The leaves are 2-4 inches long and heart-shaped, with a coarse texture.



10) Saw Palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) Leaves are fan-like, 3 to 4 ft. divided fronds, either green or silvery blue-green with vicious spines along the stalks. Trunk is creeping, rough brown that runs along the ground, forming dense thickets. Blooms are long branched clusters of tiny white flowers. Fruit are black 3/4 in. in diameter.



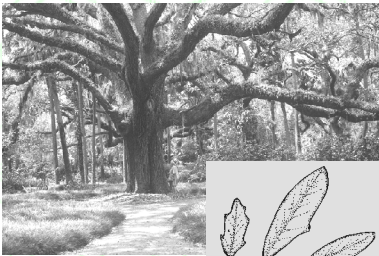
11) Spanish Stopper (*Eugenia foetida*) Bark is dusky gray, mottled by lichens. Leaves are dark green and glossy above, lighter below, with curled under margins. Leaves are opposite. Grows tall & narrow.



12) Marlberry (*Ardisia escallonioides*) Leaves are oblong or lance-shaped dark green and glossy up to 9 in. long. Trunk is thin with grey bark. Blooms appear in clusters of 1/4 in. fragrant white flowers streaked with red or purple appearing from spring to fall with fruit rounded, shiny, purplish-black and cluster at the ends of the branch.



13) Live Oak (*Quercus Virginiana*) Evergreen oak, looks alive even in winter. Leaves are leathery, narrow and oval, can reach 4-5 in. long. They are dark green and lighter underneath. Trunk is very thick, dividing into many wide flung branches low on the trunk.



14) Myrsine (*Rapanea punctata*) Leaves are light green and thick, on short stems, crowded on light green twigs. Trunk usually shrubby, with light gray bark. Blooms are tiny clusters of greenish-white flowers, blooming in winter and spring. Fruit borne on twigs below the leaves.



15) Cabbage Palm (*Sabal palmetto*) Aka: Cabbage Palm - State tree, the large fronds are deeply divided and folded in the middle. They are dull gray-green, 3-5 ft. across. Trunk is smooth and dark gray on older trees; younger trees are covered with cross-hatched old leaf bases. Blooms are small white, fragrant flowers that hang in clusters on 3 ft. stems, appearing in early summer. The fruit is round, ½ in., black, ripening in fall. The edible bud, called heart of palm, is considered a delicacy but collecting it kills the plant.



16) Strangler Fig (*Ficus aurea*) A large, sturdy trunk, often with aerial roots. Milky sap. Typically begins as a climber on a host tree & quickly outgrows and strangles it.



17) Paradise Tree (*Simarouba Glauca*) Aka: Bitterwood; Leaflets are leathery dark green above & light gray below. New growth is red and showy. Trunk has thin gray bark. Bloom is yellow with one inch fruits appearing on female trees in May and is purplish-black in color. One of Florida's most beautiful native trees.



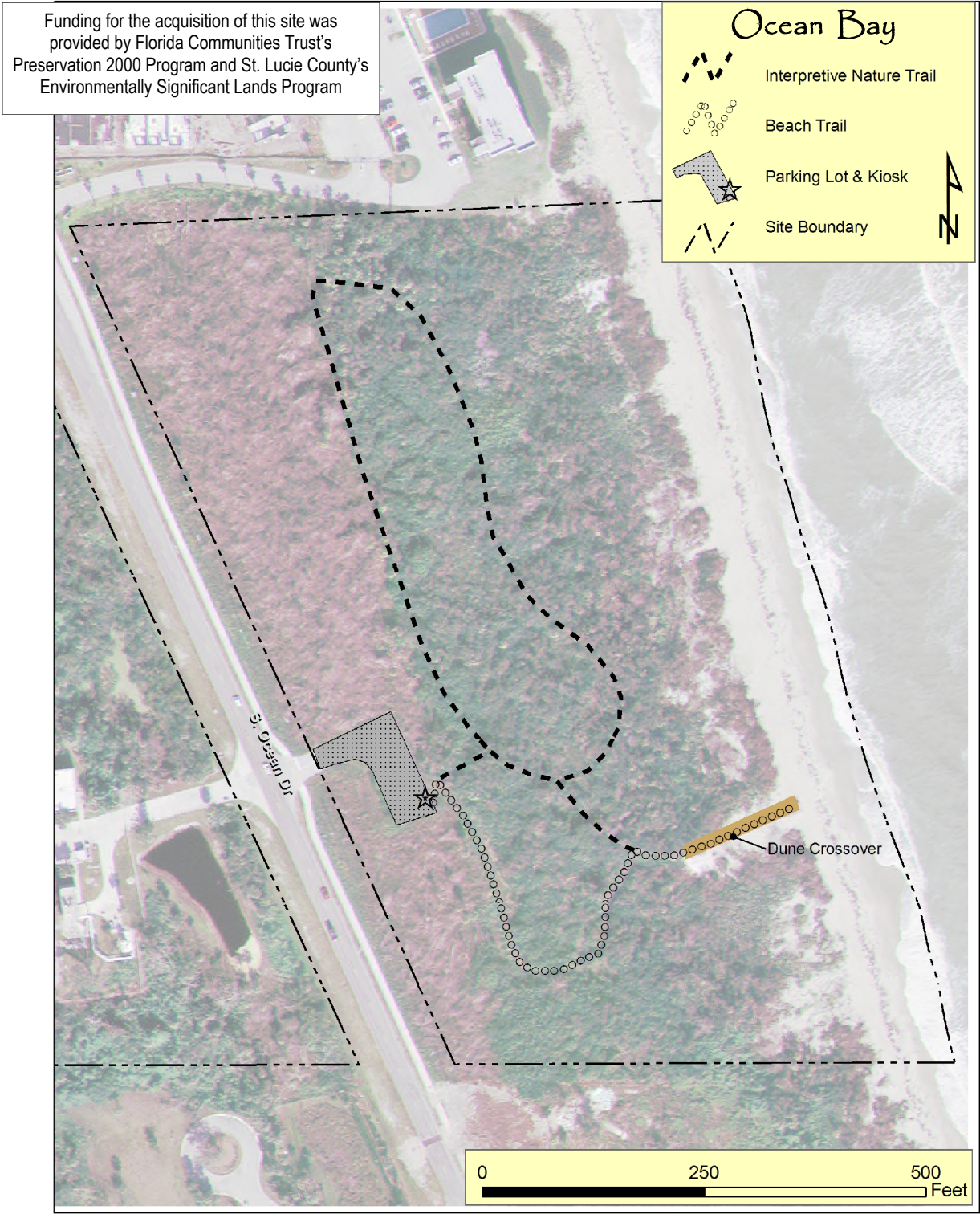
Blue Land Crab (*Cardisoma guanhumi*)
If you traverse quietly along the trail, you may encounter this large shy terrestrial crab. Be on the lookout for their large burrows on or around the trail, these burrows can be several feet in depth. This giant land crab can reach several inches in size and are identifiable by their blue and grey coloration with one claw slightly larger than the other. Various colors of species can be found from Bermuda through to Texas and throughout the Caribbean. Be sure to observe only, as they may leave you with a memorable pinch. Harvesting is prohibited within this site.



Guidelines and Safety Information:

- Be cautious of uneven trail surfaces.
- Please remain on the trails.
- Carry adequate drinking water.
- No lifeguards on duty.; swim at your own risk.
- Be cautious of dangerous rip currents and rough ocean conditions.
- In case of lightning, seek a low area away from trees, fence lines and tall objects.
- In case of emergency, call 911.
- While hiking the trail you may encounter animals indigenous to this area. Please observe from a safe distance.
- Leave all plant life intact.
- Please leave site cleaner than you found it. "Pack it in, pack it out"
- This site is open from dawn to dusk.
- Use at own risk.

To learn more about St. Lucie County's natural heritage, there are more than 20 self-guiding interpretive trails located within the Natural Areas/Preserves. Each trail describes the most common plants, as well as significant geographical and historical features of the site.



Ocean Bay



Interpretive Trail



**St. Lucie County
Environmental Resources
Department**
2300 Virginia Avenue
Ft. Pierce, FL 34982

772-462-2525
http://www.stlucieco.gov/erd/environmental_lands.htm
Site Open: Sunrise to Sunset